

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 24, 63, and 68; and add new Claim 77-85, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a unified user profile for providing to a user or application transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a base user class adapted to ~~work through~~ use a personalization server to access said a personalization database, wherein said base user class provides ~~a transparent an~~ interface to a user or application through which ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database using base methods, and further wherein the access is to the personalization database can be carried out independent of ~~any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;~~

(b) generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class such that ~~said implicit and explicit~~ the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class, for retrieving and updating the properties can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, and wherein the extended user class further includes external database-specific methods that can transparently retrieved from and updated in, using the extended user class, retrieve and update properties in both the personalization database and an external user database, wherein the external user database can use a different independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in than the external user personalization database, and wherein the database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases;

(c) wherein the unified user profile allows the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of ~~any knowledge of whether the accessed data is in the personalization database or the external user database;~~

(d) wherein the extended user class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties of said data in said personalization database such that the property set differentiates multiple properties that share

a single property name,[[:]] and further wherein said ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties comprise getter and setter properties; and

(e) obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended user class.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein said server is the personalization server.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

30-62. (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a server, cause the server to perform the steps of:

(a) obtaining a base user class adapted to ~~work through use~~ the server to access a first database, wherein base user class provides a transparent an interface to a user or application through which ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties can be retrieved from and updated in the first database using base methods, wherein access to the first database can be carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the first database;

(b)-generating a unified user profile by creating an extended user class to extend the base user class such that ~~said implicit and explicit~~ the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class for retrieving and updating the properties ~~can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, and wherein the extended user class further includes second database-specific methods that can transparently retrieved from and updated in, using the extended user class, retrieve and update properties in both the first database and a second database, wherein the second database can use a different access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the second~~ than the first database and wherein the second database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases;

(c)-wherein the unified user profile allows the user or application to access data in the first database and the second database independent ~~of any knowledge of whether the accessed data is in the first database or the second database;~~

(d)-wherein the extended user class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties of said data in the first database such that the property set differentiates multiple properties that share a single property name, [[;]] and further wherein the extended user class utilizes getter and setter properties; and

(e)-wherein the medium further causes the server to obtain a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in the first database and the second database.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the medium further causes the server to generate transparent read and write access to the second database through the extended user class.

65-67. (Canceled).

68. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for use in generating a unified user profile for providing transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, comprising:

at least one processor and memory, the at least one processor and memory implementing [[;]]

(a)-~~a base user class adapted to work through~~ use a personalization server to access ~~said a~~ a personalization database, wherein said base user class provides a

~~transparent~~ an interface to a user or application through which ~~implicit and explicit~~ properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database using base methods, wherein access to the personalization database can be carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;

~~(b) an extended user class that extends the base user class such that said implicit and explicit the extended user class inherits the base methods from the base user class for retrieving and updating the properties can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, and wherein the extended user class further includes external user database-specific methods that can transparently retrieved from and updated in, retrieve and update properties in using extended user class, both the personalization database and an external user database, wherein the external user database can use a different access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention than the personalization database of data in the external user database and wherein the external user database-specific methods are called by the base methods to complete operations on properties stored in the databases;~~

~~(c) wherein the unified user profile allows the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of any knowledge of whether the accessed data is in the personalization database or the external user database;~~

~~(d) wherein the extended base class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database such that the property set differentiates multiple properties that share a single property name,[[:]] and further wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties; and~~

~~(e) wherein the system further comprises a means of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.~~

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended user class.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69, wherein the system further comprises a means of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said server is the personalization server.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

74-76. (Canceled).

77. (New) A method for generating and using a unified user profile for providing access to a plurality of databases, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a base user class from a personalization server, wherein the base user class is used to access and aggregate properties stored in a plurality of different data stores, including a personalization database and an external user database, and wherein the base user class includes a base method to retrieve and update the properties stored in the data stores;

creating a unified user profile, by creating an extended user class based on the different data stores and which extends the base user class, wherein the extended user class includes data store specific methods to retrieve and update user-specific properties in each of the data stores;

subsequently receiving from an application a request to perform an operation on a user property stored in the external user database, by the application calling the base method;

determining, by the base method, whether a data store specific method is associated with the user property, and if a data store specific method is associated with the user property, then calling the data store specific method to complete the operation; and

using the base user class with a property set that defines namespace qualifications for properties in each of the different data stores, to determine that the operation to be performed

by the application on the user property conforms to namespace qualifications defined by the property set.

78. (New) The method of claim 77 further comprising:
determining, by the base method, whether the user property is an explicit or implicit property using reflection.
79. (New) The method of claim 78 wherein explicit properties are stored in the external user database and implicit properties are stored in the personalization database.
80. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein data store specific methods are created for each property stored in the external user database.
81. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein the data store specific methods include a getter method and a setter method.
82. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein the base method uses a name of the user property as a key to determine whether the data store specific method exists.
83. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein the data store specific methods follow a naming convention including getPropertyname and setPropertyname, wherein Propertyname is a name of the user property.
84. (New) The method of claim 77 further comprising:
authenticating data in each of the data stores using a security realm; and
retrieving user information including user name and group property names associated with the user using the security realm.
85. (New) The method of claim 77 further comprising:
registering the unified user profile with the personalization server; and
enabling server page tags to be used with the unified user profile.